UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408

MAR 12 1973

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of February 2, 1973.

As we do not have the original of the "Report of Inspection by Naval Medical Staff on November 1, 1966 at National Archives of X-rays and Photographs of Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy," we are referring a copy of your letter to the Department of Justice in regard to your request for a copy of the report made from the original.

As you know, the report of the Naval Medical Staff was previously withheld from research under the terms of 5 U.S.C. 552, subsection (b) (6), as a part of "medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" of the family of the late President Kennedy. On a subsequent review of the report, it was found that the provisions of this subsection, as interpreted by recent judicial decisions, were no longer applicable. However, at no time was this document security classified, as your letter would imply your understanding.

We are not aware of any other documents that contain information concerning the actions of the Secret Service agent in seizing and exposing a film at the autopsy. If you know of any relevant documents that have been published, we shall be pleased to make them available to you.

Enclosed are copies of an unsigned draft of the report of the Naval Medical Staff and a memorandum from the Department of Justice to the National Archives dated January 13, 1967, entitled "Authentication of Kennedy Autopsy Pictures." Additional documents leading to the report of the Naval Medical Staff are withheld from research under the terms of 5 U.S.C. 552, subsection (b) (5), as "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency," or are working papers which are not records for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.

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If you will specify the materials denied to you that you want reviewed, we shall be pleased to consider your request for a review.

Sincerely,

James B. Rhoads

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

Enclosures

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on November 1, 1966, in Room 200-A of the National Archives Building, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., the following individuals jointly considered the items of materials which are described hereinafter:

8 x 10 film

1. Interior, posterior view of the skull on 8 x 10" film, slightly heat damaged, bearing the x-ray number 21296.

2. A right lateral view of the skullon 8 x 10" film with two angle lines overdrawn on the film, the film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

3. A lateral view of the skull on 8 x 10" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

4. X-ray of three fragments of bone with the larger fragment containing metallic fragments on 8 x 10" film bearing no x-ray identification number on the film.

5. X-ray with three fragments of bone on 8 x 10" film, the larger particle containing metallic fragments.

6. X-ray of three bone fragments on 8 x 10" film, the larger fragment showing metallic particles.

14 x 7"

7. Interior, posterior view of the abdomen on 14 x 7" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

8. Interior, posterior view of the right shoulder and right chest on 14 x 7" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

9. Interior, posterior film of the chest on 14 x 7" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

10. Interior, posterior view of the left shoulder and left chest on 14 x 7" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

11. Interior, posterior view of the abdomen and lower chest on 14 x 7" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

12. Interior, posterior view of both femurs including both knee joints on 14 x 7" film bearing the x-ray number 21296.

13. Interior, posterior view of the pelvis. There is a small round density of milecgram media projected over the sacral canal.

14. Interior, posterior view of the lower pelvis, hips, and upper femurs. INSERT - the x-ray is accompanied by the accompanying x-ray number and the initials JG. The exception is number 8 which is accompanied by 3 prints instead of 2 prints.

4 x 5 black and white negatives

1. 4 x 5" negative depicting the left side of the head and shoulders (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

2. Similar view (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

3. Similar view (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

4. Similar view (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

5. 4 x 5" negative depicting the right side of the head and right shoulder (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

6. 4 x 5" negative similar to number 5 (above). (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints

7. 4 x 5 negative depicting superior view of head (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

8. 4 x 5 negative similar to number 7 (above) (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10 prints.)

9. 4 x 5 negative similar to number 7 (2 contact and 2 8 x 10 prints)

10. 4 x 5 negative similar to number 7 (2 contact and 2 8 x 10 prints)

11. 4 x 5 negative showing posterior view of wound of entrance of missile high in shoulder (2 contact and 2 8 x 10" prints)

12. 4 x 5 negative similar to number 11 (2 contact and 2 8 x 10" prints)

13. 4 x 5" negative showing interior aspect of head and upper torso including trachestomy wound. Also discernible are two superficial stab wounds on each side of the chest placed by the physicians in the emergency room at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas (2 contact and 2 8 x 10" prints)

14. 4 x 5" negative similar to number 13 (above) except somewhat closer view (2 contact prints and 2 8 x 10" prints)

15. 4 x 5" negative depicting wound of entrance in right posterior occipital (2 contact and 2 8 x 10" prints)

16. 4 x 5" negative similar to number 15 (2 contact and 2 8 x 10" prints)

17. 4 x 5" negative depicting missile wound over entrance in posterior skull, following reflection of the scalp (2 contact and 2 8 x 10" prints)

18. 4 x 5" negative similar to number 17 (above) with three contact and two 8 x 10" prints

These negative jackets and individual prints described above each bear the initials JTB.

<u>Black and White Negatives - No Prints Available</u>

19. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, of basilar view of the brain

20. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, superior view of the brain

21. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, basilar view of the brain.

22. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available,direct basilar view of the brain.

23. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, superior view of brain clearly depicting the extensive damage to right cerebral hemisphere.

24. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, similar view to number 23 (above).

25. 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, similar view to number 23 (above).

(Numbers 19 to 25 - covering folders initialed JJH; negatives initiated JTB.)

Color Transparancies

26. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the right side of the head

27. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints similar view as number 26 (above).

28. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints similar view as number 26 (above).

29. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the left side of the head.

30. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints similar to number 29 (above).

31. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints similar to number 29 (above).

32. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4" x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of superior view of head.

33, 34, 35, 36, and 37 - 4 x 5" color transparencies with each having a

4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints, all similar view as number 32 (above).

38. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the missile wound high in right superior, posterior shoulder.

39. 4 x 5" color ~~transparency~~ with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints, same view as number 38 (above).

40. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the interior view of upper torso and head showing trachestomy wound.

41. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints, similar view to number 40 (above).

42. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 3 8 x 10" color prints of the missile wound in right occipital region.

43. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 3 8 x 10" color prints, similar to number 42 (above).

44. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the missile wound in posterior skull with scalp reflected.

45. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 44(above).

46. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the basilar view of brain.

47. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 46 (above).

48. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 46 (above).

49. No color transparency but one color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints similar to number 46 (above).

50. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints of the superior view of the brain.

51. 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and 2 8 x 10" color prints similar view to number 50 (above).

In each of the above numbers (26 through 52), the jackets for the color film and the back of the color prints bear the initials JTB.

Miscellaneous

Unexposed but developed 4 x 5" extachrome transparency.

Unexposed, undeveloped 4 x 5" extachrome film.

Roll of 120 film, processed but showing no recognizable image

Item number four of the donation list represents 4 x 5 unexposed black and white film - five envelopes with each containing one

The signatures signed below indicate that the above is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

James J. Humes, Captain, M.C., USN

J. Thornton Boswell, M.D.

John H. Ebersole, Captain, M.C., USN

John W. Stringer

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Deputy Archivist of the United States

Marion Johnson

Carl Belcher, U.S. Department of Justice